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Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Division

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
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December 3, 2003

CSX Transportation
Attn: Stephanie M. Lemmon
500 Water Street (J200)
Jacksonville, FL 32202

RE: **Abandon 23.25 Miles of Railroad, between Waresboro and Pearson**
Applicant: CSX Transportation, Inc., Docket AB-55 (Sub No. 640X)
Ware and Atkinson counties, Georgia
GA-030812-008



Dear Ms. Lemmon:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has received the additional information contained in the "Historic Report" regarding the above referenced project for the abandonment of 23.25 miles of railroad corridor between Waresboro and Pearson. Our comments are offered to assist the federal agencies and their applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the information provided, it is HPD's opinion that this historic railroad corridor should be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Please see the attached summary report entitled "Historic Railroads in Georgia." It appears that the undertaking, as presently submitted, would result in the removal of rail, crossties, and upper layer of ballast, as well as cessation of maintenance operations. There are six timber trestles along this line, all constructed in 1945, which would no longer be maintained.

Based on our recent telephone conversation, it appears that the scope of the proposed undertaking may be changing. It is now possible that a "short-line" railroad will soon file papers to operate along this corridor. As this could significantly change our assessment of effects for this project, we will await further information before we complete our review and comments. If you need anything in the meantime, please let us know.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact me at (404) 651-6777 or Serena G. Bellew, Environmental Review Coordinator at (404) 651-6624.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Denise P. Messick".

Denise P. Messick
Environmental Review Historian

CC: Surface Transportation Board, Section of Environmental Analysis, Washington, DC
N. S. Rosenberg, Counsel, CSXT, Jacksonville
Michael Jacobs, Southeast Georgia RDC